contractual teacher for teaching other Indian languages can be made provided 20 or more students in a class opt for the same. In Classes XI and XII, any other language other than the compulsory core language can also be opted for as an elective subject.

Courses in water management and water harvesting

696. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that UGC has decided to introduce courses in water management and water harvesting in all the universities;

(b) if so, whether the course/syllabus has been finalized;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, whether any Expert Committee has been constituted to look into the finalisation of syllabus; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) According to the information furnished by the University Grants Commission, the UGC has decided to introduce add-on courses of Watershed Technology/ Management in universities covered under Section 2 (f) and 12 (B) of the UGC Act, 1956 and are interested/desirous of introducing the courses in their respective universities.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. A circular has been issued by the UGC along with a model syllabus to all the universities in the country, with a request to submit proposals for the courses in Watershed technology/management under the UGC Scheme of Career Oriented Programme.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Introduction of grading system for board examinations

†697. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any scheme regarding declaration of result of board examination of 10th and 12th standard according to grading system in all the States; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when this scheme will be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) In the meeting of Council of Board of School Education (COBSE) held on 1st May, 2005, a decision was taken to recommend to the boards of education a scheme to introduce grades up to class X. A final decision has not yet been taken by CBSE. So far as CBSE is concerned, the Board is proposing to introduce a grading system, which envisages issue of subject wise grades without any reference to marks.

(b) Does not arise.

Reservation for OBCs in Kendriya/Navodaya Vidyalayas

698. SHRI S.S. CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that OBC students are not given reservation in the Kendriya and Navodaya Vidyalaya;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government would take steps to provide reservation for such students belonging to OBC in view of their backwardness?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Reservation for OBC in school admission has not been provided for in the guidelines approved either by the Board of Governors of the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan or by the Executive Committee of the Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti.

(c) In view of (b), question does not arise.

Urdu schools

699. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Urdu schools in several States are in dilapidated condition;